

Greetings from N4-HYDC! Below you will find an update on the work of the **National 4-H Youth Directions Council** and the upcoming Leaders' Academy. We hope this answers some of the questions you might have, and at the end of this message, we suggest additional ways for us to address your questions.

Additionally, if at any time you have any questions or concerns please contact the N4-HYDC Executive Directors, Amber King at aking@fourhcouncil.edu or Andrew Dunckelman at adunckelman@fourhcouncil.edu directly so that we can respond ASAP.

Topics Covered in this message:

New Advisory Committee
Status of Current Members
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Ongoing Communications

Advisory Committee

During your summer State Program Leader regional meetings, we asked you to identify a liaison from your respective regions in order to assist us. To follow up on that request we created an Advisory Committee to provide us with the input and feedback.

We would like to extend the invitation to identify one person from your respective regions, either a State Program Leader or your designee, to join the Advisory Committee for N4-HYDC. Consisting of approximately 10 youth and adults, the committee will help us in our roles as Executive Directors to ensure that N4-HYDC continues to grow and serve the interests of its members, other 4-H'ers, 4-H professionals, etc.

By agreeing to join the advisory committee, your commitment will include:

1. Participation in monthly conference calls, the first of which will be held in February.
2. Attendance at our Leaders' Academy (Sept 29 – Oct 3, 2005). We will do our best to secure funding for your attendance, though we encourage you not to hinge your decision on the Academy. We do not want to preclude your participation if you will not be able to attend.

We very much hope that you will strongly consider having representation on the Advisory Committee for 4-H's national team of youth leaders.

Status of Current Members

We want you to be aware that we have requested that our current membership continue to serve as N4-HYDC members until October 2005, which is still consistent with their original 18 month commitment. Because we realize this makes for a lengthy active term, we are working with our membership to ensure they understand what we are asking and that they can continue to stay involved. You can expect your current member to be in regular monthly contact with you, if you find that this is not happening we encourage you to contact your member or to let us know so that we can also encourage that individual to increase communications.

N4-HYDC will host a Leaders' Academy on September 30 – October 3, 2005

Applications

All Land-Grant Institutions interested in attending will be asked to submit applications. Applications will need to demonstrate 1) a level of commitment by a state/institution to support and partner with their N4-HYDC Representative, 2) an info structure to connect their N4-HYDC Representative to their other State Youth Leadership Bodies, and 3) an adult partner (not chaperone, but a partner who will participate in training and support work back home) that is committed to working with their N4-HYDC Representative and the concepts of youth-in-governance. These applications will come out in February along with the criteria that they will be evaluated against. Institutions or states will be expected to submit these applications and will be notified in March with the results.

Funding

- John Deere is sponsoring the Leaders' Academy which will be held at National 4-H Youth Conference Center
- Institutions/States that demonstrate the level of commitment sought out in the applications will receive a full scholarship (including travel) for their youth representative.
- It is recommended that an adult partner (not chaperone) accompany each youth member to support work done back home. Registration and lodging expenses will be covered, but travel costs (for the adult only) must be paid by the institution.
- N4-HYDC members, their adult partners and state programs that elect to participate will be asked to demonstrate a commitment to ongoing work in YIG within their state, including training other youth and adults. Grants will be available to support this work.

Selection of Participants

Selections of your youth and adult participants should be completed by mid-April of 2005. We ask that you model your selection criteria after the following recommendations.

Youth Participants

- 1) Be between the ages of 16 and 21 throughout their entire term
- 2) Experience and active participation in current state leadership structures/bodies
- 3) Participation in at least one prior development experience, such as major state events, CWF, Conference, Congress, etc.
- 4) Integrity and ability to serve as a role model to other 4-H youth
- 5) An evident ability to manage time and handle the 18 month commitment of joining N4-HYDC
- 6) Strong communication skills
- 7) An interest in learning more about youth engagement
- 8) Capable of traveling alone
- 9) Experience and/or interest in working on decision-making bodies which involve adults, such as County Advisory Boards, Fair Boards, Non-Profit Boards of Directors, etc.

Adult Participants

- 1) Member of the State or County 4-H Staff
- 2) Preferably connected to state youth leadership structures
- 3) Clear understanding of the concept of youth and adult partnerships
- 4) Committed to working in a youth-adult partnership with the youth N4-HYDC Representative

A sample application form for both your youth and adult participants, and outline of a recommended selection process will be sent to you in February.

Ongoing Communications**State Contact Person**

If you would like us to be in contact with an individual on your staff regarding updates and deadlines, please let us know so that we can begin compiling a list of Institution/State Contacts. Please send this contact information to Amber at aking@fourhcouncil.edu.

Monthly Meet-Up

As the Leadership Academy gets nearer, a Monthly Meet Up will be convened with the focus on questions related to the Academy and N4-HYDC; watch for details from National 4-H Headquarters.

Regional Calls

We would also welcome the opportunity to join you on your regional teleconference calls to answer questions that you may have. If you would like us to join you, please forward the date and time of your call, and call-in information to Amber at aking@fourhcouncil.edu. Please also feel free to let us know at anytime throughout the year when you would like us to join you.

Attached you can find a calendar of next steps that you can expect from us.

Thanks for your attention to this lengthy email, we hope this helps to answer a few of your questions about what to expect in the coming months. We look forward to working with you and ask for your continued patience.

Should you have comments or questions, you are always welcome to contact us.

Cheers,

Amber King and Andrew Dunckelman

Executive Directors, N4-HYDC